

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF FISH INTRODUCTION
PRIVATE POND APPLICATION**

Name and address of applicant: Matt Olson
5800 Hwy. 12 West
Helena, MT 59601

Has the pond been approved for a private pond permit? No

Location of pond: **County:** Lewis & Clark
Legal description: T31N R10W Sec 4

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

Tenmile Creek

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Rainbow and Brook trout

Is this species legally present in the drainage?

Yes.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

None

RISKS:

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations: ☐ None ☒ Minor
Major

Comments: If pond were inundated by Tenmile Creek during a flood event, pond fish would escape into the drainage. This could result in competition and introgression with existing wild salmonid populations in the stream.

Impacts to any life stage of existing fish populations due to competition and/or predation?

☒ None ☐ Minor ☐ Major

Impacts to other forms of aquatic life that may be caused by this introduction?

☐ None ☒ Minor ☐ Major

Comments: See comments above.

Potential for the proposed new species to reproduce in this location:

☐ None ☒ Minor ☐ Major

Springs in pond may allow for extremely limited reproduction.

If necessary, would it be feasible to remove this species after it has been stocked?

Yes.

Would this introduction result in impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?

Yes. This pond was created in the near floodplain area of Tenmile Creek and captures subsurface water that is likely shared with Tenmile Creek surface water. Tenmile is a severely dewatered stream and continued pond development of this nature will only further exacerbate the dewatered condition and impact the aquatic community of the drainage.

Describe reasonable and prudent alternatives to this action, if any (including no action).

Do not stock.

Describe and evaluate mitigation, stipulations, or other control measures enforceable by the agency, if any.

Species restrictions.

List any other agencies or individuals that may be affected by the proposed introduction:

DNRC.

List all agencies and individuals that have been notified of this proposed introduction:

DNRC – Karl Cristians – Floodplains
Terry McGloughlin – Water Rights.

Based on this evaluation, is an EIS required? YES/NO? If no, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for the proposed action.

No. Impacts expected to be minor.

EA prepared by: Steve Dalbey Helena Area Fisheries Biologist **DATE:** 8/6/04

Comments will be accepted until: 8/31/04

Comments should be sent to:

Steve Leathe, Regional Fisheries Manager, 4600 Giant Springs Rd., Great Falls, 59604